

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A closure panel assembly for closing an opening defined in a fixed panel, the assembly comprising:

a pair of guide rails affixed to the fixed panel on generally opposite sides of the opening; and

a sliding panel having an outer face, and a first and second edge bordering the outer face, the first and second edges being respectively disposed within the first and second guide rails such that the first and second guide rails guide the movement of the sliding panel between a closed position generally covering the opening and an open position displaced in a first direction from the closed position; and

a compression seal on one of the sliding ~~panels~~ panel and a periphery of the opening,

wherein at least one of the guide rails generally includes an engagement portion that overlies a portion of the outer face of the sliding panel when the sliding panel is in or near the closed position, the engagement portion including at least one first surface feature projecting laterally in the general direction of the opening defined in the fixed panel, and

wherein the portion of the outer face of the sliding panel includes at least one second surface feature projecting laterally toward the engagement portion of the one guide rail, the first and second surface features engaging each other when the sliding panel is moved into the closed position to displace the sliding panel laterally toward the fixed panel to compress the seal about the periphery of the opening directly between the fixed panel and the sliding panel, and further wherein the second surface feature is ~~loosely retained in the lateral direction~~ disengaged from the guide rails and the first surface feature when away from the closed position ~~and not engaging the first surface features whereby the sliding panel is displaceable away from the fixed panel when positioned between the fully-opened~~

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and closed positions.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the engagement portion of the one guide rail includes a pair of first surface features positioned relative to the opening such that one of the pair of first surface features engages a selected second surface feature on the sliding panel when the sliding panel is in the closed position, and the other of the pair of first surface features engages the selected second surface feature on the sliding panel when the sliding panel is in the fully-open position.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein engagement of the other of the pair of first surface features and the selected second surface feature displaces the sliding panel toward the fixed panel to at least partially compress only a portion of the periphery of the seal.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein a third surface feature is defined on the one guide rail, the third surface feature engaging the selected second surface feature on the sliding panel to displace the sliding panel towards the fixed panel when the sliding panel is in a partially-open position between the closed position and the open position.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein engagement of the third surface feature and the selected second surface feature displaces the sliding panel toward the fixed panel to at least partially compress only a portion of the periphery of the seal.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the engagement portion of the one guide rail continuously overlies the portion of the outer face of the sliding panel.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the sliding panel is formed

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of glass, and wherein the at least one first surface feature on the engagement portion of the one guide rail is formed of a non-marring material.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the at least one first surface feature is formed of a plastic material.

15. (Currently Amended) A closure panel assembly for closing an opening defined in a fixed panel, the assembly comprising:

a pair of guide rails affixed to the fixed panel on generally opposite sides of the opening; and

a sliding panel having an outer face, and a first and second edge bordering the outer face, the first and second edges being respectively disposed within the first and second guide rails such that the first and second guide rails guide the movement of the sliding panel between a closed position generally covering the opening and an open position displaced in a first direction from the closed position; and

a compression seal on one of the sliding panel and a periphery of the opening, wherein at least one of the guide rails generally includes an engagement portion that overlies a portion of the outer face of the sliding panel when the sliding panel is in or near the closed position, the engagement portion of the one guide rail including at least one pair of first surface features projecting laterally in the general direction of the opening defined in the fixed panel, and

wherein the portion of the outer face of the sliding panel includes a selected second surface feature projecting laterally toward the engagement portion of the one guide rail, the first pair of surface features and the second selected surface feature positioned relative to the opening such that one of the pair of first surface features engages the selected second surface feature on the sliding panel when the sliding panel is moved into the closed position to displace the sliding panel laterally toward the fixed panel to

compress the seal about the periphery of the opening between the fixed panel and the sliding panel, and the other of the pair of first surface features engages the selected second surface feature on the sliding panel when the sliding panel is in the fully-open position to displace the sliding panel laterally toward the fixed panel to at least partially compress a portion of the seal about the periphery directly between the fixed panel and the sliding panel, and further wherein the second surface feature is ~~loosely retained in the lateral direction~~ disengaged from the guide rails and the first surface feature when away from the closed position ~~and not engaging the first surface features~~ whereby the sliding panel is displaceable away from the fixed panel when positioned between the fully-opened and closed positions.